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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC-05673/86  
17 December 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Representatives of the National Foreign Intelligence Board

FROM:

[redacted]  
Acting National Intelligence Officer for Europe

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SUBJECT: Romania: Incipient Crisis?

1. I have reserved the NIC conference room 7E62 from 1400 to 1600 on Monday, 22 December, for an interagency discussion of signs of mounting instability in Romania. [redacted]

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2. If a political crisis were to break out in Romania, it would most likely be precipitated by:

- Ceausescu's death or severe incapacitation;
- a "palace coup" engineered by a group or groups (as yet undefined) opposed to Ceausescu's misrule; and/or
- a "brush fire" of spontaneous but mutually reinforcing protest actions around the country.

The intelligence and policy communities are fairly well attuned to at least the first two of these, as well as to the possible roles of the Securitate, the military, the Ceausescu clan, and the USSR. There may be other crisis scenarios that we should consider, but the last, and the least well documented, scenario is my main concern.

3. The last Memorandum to Holders (dated December 1985) of SNIE 12.7-83, "Romania: The Outlook for Ceausescu," appears to be holding up as a forecast of the likely impacts of a Romanian internal crisis. The issue now at hand is whether that crisis now is imminent and how we make that judgment. The emphasis at this Monday's meeting will be on improving [redacted] warning mechanisms.

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